



Michigan Department of Community Health, 201 Townsend Street, Lansing, MI 48933

FLU ACTIVITY INCREASING & CURRENT SEASON VACCINATION COVERAGE

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hosted a [telebriefing](#) Dec 3 regarding current influenza activity and vaccination rates in the United States. Key points include:

- Flu is increasing and is over the threshold suggesting an early start to the flu season. High levels of influenza-like illness activity have been reported in southeastern and the south central region of US.
- This week's MMWR includes, "[Influenza Activity – United States, September 30-November 24, 2012](#)"
- Influenza A H3N2 has been the predominant strain which suggests that this could be a bad flu year.
- However, this year's strains appear to be a great match with this year's vaccine. Over 124 million doses of flu vaccine have been distributed so far this year.
- As of mid-November over 60% of the US population remains unvaccinated for flu.
- 63% of [health care personnel \(HCP\)](#) are vaccinated.
 - Coverage was highest in HCP working in hospitals (83%) and lowest in HCP in LTC facilities (49%).
 - By occupation, flu vaccination was highest among pharmacists(89%), physicians(84%) & nurses(82%).
 - Flu vaccination was lowest among assistants or aides (43%).
- By early November [47% of pregnant](#) women had received a flu vaccine.
 - Women receiving a HCP recommendation and offer had a
 - 1.6 times higher chance to be vaccinated (73.5%) than women receiving only a recommendation but no offer (45.1%)
 - a 4.8 times higher chance to be vaccinated than women not receiving a recommendation or offer.

Related News Articles

- [Flu Season Arrives Early and It Could Be Severe: CDC](#)
- [CDC sees signs of early, bad flu season](#)

NATIONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION WEEK (NIVW)

This week during NIVW the CDC and HHS published the following resources:

- [Who's at Risk for the Flu?](#)
- [Flu Risks for People Living with HIV](#)
- [Information for Flu Prevention Partners: Success Stories](#)
- [Flu and Children with Neurologic Conditions](#)

FluBytes is distributed to MDCH flu partners for informational and communication purposes. Please feel free to distribute widely. Archived editions of FluBytes can be found [here](#). To access archived editions of MI FluFocus click [here](#).

INFLUENZA IN MICHIGAN

This week Michigan [influenza activity](#) was upgraded to "local" activity for the week ending December 1, 2012. On December 4 MDCH released a press release, "[During National Influenza Vaccination Week, Michigan Residents Reminded It's Not Too Late for a Flu Shot](#)"

- Michigan: [Athens schools closed after suspected flu outbreak](#)

INFLUENZA RELATED JOURNAL ARTICLES

A meta-analysis of 90 observational studies showed that early neuraminidase-inhibitor treatment of hospital patients reduced the risk of admission to a critical care unit or death, according to a report in the [Journal of Infectious Diseases](#).

Additional Journal Article

- [Annual influenza vaccination affects the development of heterosubtypic immunity](#)
- [A "pre-seasonal" hospital outbreak of flu pneumonia caused by the drift variant A/Victoria/361/2011-like H3N2 viruses, Hong Kong, 2011](#)

INFLUENZA NEWS ARTICLES

- [Why is Influenza More Common During Winter?](#)
- [Hospital flu vaccination policies are a 'tough sell'](#)
- [Flu Shot or Flu Mist: Which is Better for You?](#)

FLU VACCINES REQUIRED TO BE ENTERED INTO MCIR

As a reminder, providers are required to report flu immunizations administered to every child less than 20 years old within 72 hours of administration into the [Michigan Care Improvement Registry \(MCIR\)](#). Please ensure you are entering your doses for adults as well!

FLU RESOURCES

Stay up-to-date with:

MDCH: www.michigan.gov/flu

CDC: www.cdc.gov/flu

HHS: www.flu.gov

Check out the [MDCH Flu Gallery](#) for posters you can use this flu season. An example of a flu poster to reach pregnant women is included on page 2.

The Oct/Nov 2012 issue of the Michigan Immunization Timely Tips (MITT) is now [available](#).

This 2-minute segment of "[Rick's Rant](#)" from the Rick Mercer Show on CBC TV in Canada is on getting vaccinated against influenza.

Why get a flu vaccine?

Ask the Yaksich family of Michigan.



This year and every year, make sure you and your loved ones are vaccinated against the flu. It could save a life.

Alana's story

On February 2, 2003, 5½-year-old Alana Yaksich spent the day with her parents and brothers watching movies, eating sundaes and playing. Even with a low-grade fever from a recent sore throat, Alana enjoyed the afternoon feeling healthy and surrounded by her family. That evening, Alana was rushed to the emergency room when her fever increased to 106 degrees. Within 24 hours of arriving at the local hospital, Alana died of flu-related complications that caused swelling and injury to her brain.

Flu is a serious disease that can be prevented through vaccination. Annually an average of 20,000 young children are hospitalized because of the flu.

In a recent mild flu season, 120 children in the United States died of the flu, of which half were previously healthy, just like Alana.



www.michigan.gov/immunize

Concept adapted with permission from Texas Children's Hospital

Available at: www.michigan.gov/flu → Click on "Flu Gallery"